

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PA-02 ISO-00 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 SS-15 ACDA-12 PM-05 SP-02 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:LW
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----065529 180230Z /66

O 180001Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

JCS WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR
DOD
CIA
USICA
NSC
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 17

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 17, 1978.
FOR YOUR INFO ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

MR. RESTON: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS GRATIFIED BY THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS OF LEBANON THAT HE IN-
TENDS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE. SECRETARY VANCE SENT A MESSAGE
TO PRESIDENT SARKIS WARMLY WELCOMING THIS DECISION. WE
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HOPE THAT THIS DECISION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A REDUCTION IN
TENSIONS AND TO A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH BROUGHT
ABOUT THE RECENT FIGHTING IN BEIRUT. THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT SARKIS
AND THE UNIFYING POLICIES HE HAS REPRESENTED.

Q. THE SUNDAY TIMES OF LONDON YESTERDAY HAD A FAIRLY
LARGE ARTICLE ON A REPORTER ON THE SPOT IN LEBANON WHICH
CORROBORATES OTHER STORIES THAT HAVE APPEARED THAT THE
ISRAELIS HAVE INDEED BEEN SHIPPING ARMS--HEAVY ARMS--TO
THE PHALANGE BY SEA. THEY HAVE SOME FURTHER DOCUMENTATION,
AND THERE ARE REPORTS IN IT THAT INDICATE THAT INVOLVED IN

THESE SHIPMENTS ARE SHERMAN TANKS, WHICH I BELIEVE ARE U.S.
MADE.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON YOUR INVESTIGATION OF THESE
TRANSFERS?

A. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER THAN WHAT I WAS ABLE TO GIVE
YOU LAST WEEK SOMETIME WHEN I DID ADDRESS THIS QUESTION.

Q. THE SATURDAY EDITION OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG REPORTS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS CONTEMPLATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A TOTAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST ISRAEL IF THESE REPORTS CHECK OUT. DOES THAT HAVE ANY VERACITY?

A. YOU SEE, NOW YOU GOT ME IN ONE OF THESE HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS. AS I SAID LAST WEEK, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO OUR REGULATIONS AND OUR AGREEMENTS WITH THE ISRAELIS BEING SHIPPED IN THE MANNER THAT YOU SUGGEST. I'M NOT GOING TO ADDRESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOME OTHER SITUATION OBTAINED.

2. THE FOLLOWING WERE QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING
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JULY 14, 1978 AND POSTED ON JULY 17, 1978:

Q. WITH WHOM DID ALFRED MADY MEET IN THE DEPARTMENT?

A. AT HIS REQUEST, MR. MADY CALLED ON THE LEBANON COUNTRY OFFICER JULY 14. THEY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN LEBANON.

Q. WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON THE FREIJ-CHRISTOPHER MEETING THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 14?

A. MR. ELIAS FREIJ, MAYOR OF BETHLEHEM, IS IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTLY ON A PRIVATE VISIT AND PARTLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, A NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN ARRANGED, INCLUDING THE MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. MAYOR FREIJ IS TRAVELING ALONE.
CHRISTOPHER

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